

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting proliferation in a population of cancer cells having a *ras* gene mutation which increases *RAS* activity comprising (i) increasing the amount of the differentiation protein, *MDA-7* by introducing, into one or more cell of the population, an effective amount of a nucleic acid encoding *MDA-7* protein, in expressible form and (ii) decreasing *RAS* activity by introducing, into one or more cell of the population, an effective amount of ~~an antisense-*ras* molecule~~ a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a *RAS* nucleic acid molecule and that inhibits translation of *ras*-specific mRNA.
2. (cancelled)
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid encoding *MDA-7* protein is comprised in a viral vector.
4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a retrovirus vector and a vaccinia virus vector.
5. (cancelled)
6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering an effective amount of a viral vector encoding ~~the antisense-*ras*~~

~~molecule~~ a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a *RAS* nucleic acid molecule and that inhibits translation of *ras*-specific mRNA.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a retrovirus vector, and a vaccinia virus vector.
8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the antisense-*ras* molecule~~ the nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a *RAS* nucleic acid molecule and that inhibits translation of *ras*-specific mRNA is an oligonucleotide.
9. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the viral vector further comprises a nucleic acid encoding *MDA-7* in expressible form.
10. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting proliferation in a population of cancer cells having a *ras* gene mutation which increases *RAS* activity comprising
  - (i) increasing the amount of the differentiation associated protein, *MDA-7*, by a ~~method selected from~~ introducing, into at least one cell of the population, an effective amount of a nucleic acid encoding *MDA-7* protein, in expressible form ~~and introducing, into the population, an effective amount of *MDA-7* protein and~~
  - (ii) decreasing *RAS* activity by introducing, into at least one cell of the population, an effective amount of an anti-*RAS* agent selected from the group consisting of an antisense *ras* molecule, a *ras* specific ribozyme, and a precursor of a triple helix targeting the *ras* gene, ~~a farnesyl transferase inhibitor, and an agent which inhibits a molecule selected from the group consisting of the epidermal growth factor receptor, *RAF*, MAPK kinase, MAP kinase, and PI3 kinase.~~

11. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting proliferation of a cancer cell having a *ras* gene mutation which increases *RAS* activity comprising (i) increasing the amount of the differentiation protein, *MDA-7* by introducing, into the cell, a nucleic acid encoding *MDA-7* protein, in expressible form and (ii) decreasing *RAS* activity by introducing, into the cell, an anti-*RAS* agent which is a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a *RAS* nucleic acid molecule and that inhibits translation of *ras*-specific mRNA ~~selected from the group consisting of an antisense *ras* molecule, a ribozyme, a precursor of a triple helix, and a farnesyl transferase inhibitor.~~
12. (cancelled)
13. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the nucleic acid encoding *MDA-7* protein is comprised in a viral vector.
14. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a retrovirus vector and a vaccinia virus vector.
15. (cancelled)
16. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering an effective amount of a viral vector encoding ~~an antisense *ras* molecule~~ a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a *RAS* nucleic acid molecule and that inhibits translation of *ras*-specific mRNA.
17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a retrovirus vector, and a vaccinia virus vector.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering an effective amount of an anti-*RAS* agent selected from the group consisting of an antisense *ras* molecule, a *ras* specific ribozyme, and a precursor of a triple helix targeting the *ras* gene ~~an antisense *ras* molecule which is an oligonucleotide.~~
19. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the viral vector further comprises a nucleic acid encoding *MDA-7* in expressible form.
20. (cancelled)
21. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting proliferation in a population of pancreatic cancer cells having a mutated *K-ras* gene comprising (i) increasing the amount of the differentiation protein, *MDA-7* by ~~a method selected from the group consisting of~~ introducing, into one or more cell of the population, a nucleic acid encoding *MDA-7* protein, in expressible form ~~and introducing, into the cell population, *MDA-7* protein~~ and (ii) decreasing *RAS* activity by introducing, into one or more cell of the population, an anti-*RAS* agent which is a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a *RAS* nucleic acid molecule and that inhibits translation of *ras*-specific mRNA ~~selected from the group consisting of an antisense *ras* molecule, a ribozyme, a precursor of a triple helix, and a farnesyl transferase inhibitor.~~
22. (cancelled)
23. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 ~~22~~ wherein the nucleic acid encoding *MDA-7* protein is comprised in a viral vector.

24. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a retrovirus vector, and a vaccinia virus vector.
25. (cancelled)
26. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering an effective amount of a viral vector encoding ~~an antisense *ras* molecule~~ a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a *RAS* nucleic acid molecule and that inhibits translation of *ras*-specific mRNA.
27. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a retrovirus vector, and a vaccinia virus vector.
28. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering an effective amount of ~~an antisense *ras* molecule~~ a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a *RAS* nucleic acid molecule and that inhibits translation of *ras*-specific mRNA which is an oligonucleotide.
29. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the viral vector further comprises a nucleic acid encoding *MDA-7* in expressible form.
30. (cancelled)
31. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting proliferation of a pancreatic cancer cell having a mutated *K-ras* gene comprising (i) increasing the amount of the differentiation protein, *MDA-7* by introducing, into the cell, a nucleic acid encoding *MDA-7* protein, in expressible form and (ii) decreasing *RAS* activity by

introducing, into the cell, an anti-*RAS* agent which is a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a *RAS* nucleic acid molecule and that inhibits translation of *ras*-specific mRNA~~selected from the group consisting of an antisense *ras* molecule, a ribozyme, a precursor of a triple helix, and a farnesyl transferase inhibitor.~~

32. (cancelled)
33. (previously presented) The method of claim 31 wherein the nucleic acid encoding *mda-7* protein is comprised in a viral vector.
34. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a retrovirus vector and a vaccinia virus vector.
35. (cancelled)
36. (currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering an effective amount of a viral vector encoding ~~an antisense *ras* molecule~~ a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a *RAS* nucleic acid molecule and that inhibits translation of *ras*-specific mRNA.
37. (original) The method of claim 36, wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, an adeno-associated virus vector, a retrovirus vector, and a vaccinia virus vector.
38. (currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein *RAS* activity is decreased by administering an effective amount of an anti-*RAS* agent selected from the group consisting of an antisense *ras* molecule, a *ras* specific ribozyme, and a

precursor of a triple helix targeting the *ras* gene ~~an antisense *ras* molecule which is an oligonucleotide.~~

39. (original) The method of claim 36, wherein the viral vector further comprises a nucleic acid encoding *MDA-7* in expressible form.
40. (cancelled)
41. (currently amended) A method for treating a subject having pancreatic cancer, comprising administering, to the subject, an effective amount of a molecule selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid encoding *MDA-7* protein, in expressible form, ~~and *MDA-7* protein,~~ and an anti-*RAS* agent which is a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a *RAS* nucleic acid molecule and that inhibits translation of *ras*-specific mRNA ~~selected from the group consisting of an antisense *ras* molecule, a ribozyme, a precursor of a triple helix, a farnesyl transferase inhibitor, and an agent which inhibits a molecule selected from the group consisting of the epidermal growth factor receptor, RAF, MAPK kinase, MAP kinase, and P13 kinase.~~
42. (original) A method of treating a subject having pancreatic cancer, comprising administering, to the subject (a) a viral vector comprising an *mda-7* gene in expressible form; and (b) an antisense *ras* oligonucleotide, in amounts which are effective, in combination, in (i) increasing the amount of the differentiation associated protein, *MDA-7* and (ii) decreasing *RAS* activity in cells of the pancreatic cancer.
- 43-50. (cancelled)